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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Tomas I. Babic et al. Art Unit : 2835
Serial No. : 10/716,543 Examiner : Unknown
Filed : November 20, 2003
Title : MECHANICAL REINFORCEMENT STRUCTURE FOR FUSES

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Commissioner for Patents
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REPLY TO ACTION OF APRIL 19, 2005

In reply to the Final Office Action of April 19, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-7 and 9-39 are pending, with claims 1, 25 and 38 being independent. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Healey Rejection

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14, 16, 17, 22-25, 27-29, 31-33, 37-39 have been rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,979,709 ("Healey").

Independent claim 1 recites a fuse including an electrical assembly and a fuse tube assembly. The electrical assembly includes two electrical contacts accessible from an exterior of a fuse and a fuse element in contact with the two electrical contacts. The fuse tube assembly includes a pre-formed tubular support structure surrounding at least a portion of the electrical assembly and a reinforcing structure formed over the pre-formed tubular support structure and in contact with at least a portion of the electrical assembly. The reinforcing structure includes a fiber matrix pre-impregnated with a resin.

Independent claim 38 recites a fuse including an electrical assembly and a fuse tube assembly that includes a pre-formed tubular support structure surrounding at least a portion of the electrical assembly and a reinforcing structure formed over the pre-formed tubular support